

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**Claim Amendments**

Independent claim 1 has been amended, claims 2-30 have been cancelled and new dependent claims 31-41 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 31-41 are now pending in this application.

Claim Objections, Examiner's Note and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Applicant has cancelled all of the claims which the Examiner objected to by reason of informalities and for which a note was made regarding 35 U.S.C. §112(6). In addition, dependent claim 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 has been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected the former claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of cited references to Shinn and to Chow et al. In view of the present claim amendments, Applicants traverse such allegations and request that the same be withdrawn.

The method of the claimed invention makes novel usage of existing (known) methods of applying obfuscation and tamper-resistance to software (TRS) to effect secure biometric verification. Independent claim 1 defines a method of biometric verification using an access software application for accessing another application, system or other software entity to protect biometric data against spoofing or theft. By this amendment, claim 1 now requires the steps of "*integrating into the access software application, by means of partial evaluation, the parameters and the biometric template*" and "*employing the so integrated biometric template to evaluate biometric data provided by a user seeking to access the other application, system or software entity to provide an evaluation result which either permits or denies access by the user*".

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The cited references to Shinn and Chow et al. cannot be combined in any manner to render obvious the foregoing subject matter defined by amended claim 1.

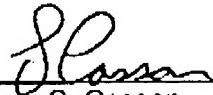
Since each of the remaining claims, being new claims 31-41, is dependent upon claim 1, and since it is submitted that independent claim 1 defines new and inventive subject matter over the cited references, it is further submitted that each of said dependent claims is also new and inventive.

CONCLUSIONS

For all the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims submitted herewith are in good form for allowance and the same is requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney to discuss resolution of any remaining issue.

Respectfully Submitted,
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